

Upper Darby, PA – Today Congressman Sestak met with the administration of the Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians in Upper Darby, speaking with staff members and visiting the facility. Representatives of the Welcoming Center included Ann O’Callahan, the Executive Director of the Center, and Carol Fanelli, Workforce Development Consultant. Linda Macquire, Workforce Development Consult, and Yana Chernov, Director of Employment Placement were also present. —

Congressman Sestak joined them to discuss a proposal put forward by the Center for the Center to provide services to Delaware County Community College. The Welcoming Center provides services to newly arrived individuals from around the world to assist them in having access to economic and workforce opportunities in the region. Since its inception in 2003, it has serviced over 4,000 people originating from over 70 nations.

“Maintaining economic security must be the top priority for our country. I believe that a steady influx of new consumers, workers, and innovators can revitalize Pennsylvania's aging population, renew its neighborhoods, and re-energize our economy,” said Congressman Sestak. “I applaud the efforts by the Welcoming Center as it works to better both the lives of these new Americans as well as the life of economy here in Pennsylvania. The history of America is written and lived by immigrants, and it is critical that we ensure that we utilize the talent and labor they bring and provide them with the opportunities this county offers. ”

The proposal would allow the Welcoming Center to provide a part-time employee at Delaware County Community College to help immigrant students and community members on a case by case basis.

“We all must work to make Pennsylvania a more vibrant, creative, and dynamic competitor in today's global economy. Economic development and workforce development are central to this endeavor.”

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on*

*Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.*

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